



Representative Louise M. Slaughter
Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules
Representing New York's 28th District

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Slaughter Leads Renewable Energy Meeting with Upstate NY Caucus and Sandia National Labs

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Washington, DC - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chair of the House Committee on Rules and Chair of the Upstate New York Caucus, today led a meeting between members of the bi-partisan Upstate New York Caucus and officials from Sandia National Laboratories regarding renewable energy development, particularly geothermal energy, in Upstate New York.

"My top priority is to keep Upstate New York strong and growing and the creation of a clean energy economy will do just that," said Congresswoman Slaughter. **"I am proud to have brought key players to the table to work towards meeting Upstate New York's future energy needs. I am especially interested in using clean, renewable energy to one day power high-speed rail which is on the fast track for Upstate."**

The group met with Douglas Blankenship, the manager of the Geothermal Research Department at Sandia, the department charged with researching the construction of wells in geothermal and other extreme environments. The group discussed whether this form of renewable energy production would be an option for Upstate New York.

Mr. Blankenship also addressed the issues associated with renewable energy production in support of a high-speed rail system. Development of a high-speed rail line between Buffalo and Albany is a preeminent priority for Rep. Slaughter and the Upstate New York Caucus. To read more about the initiative to bring high-speed rail to Upstate New York [click here](#).

BACKGROUND

About Sandia National Laboratories

Sandia National Laboratories is a government owned, contractor operated facility that has developed science-based technologies in support of our national security since 1949.

About the Upstate New York Caucus

In January, Congresswoman Slaughter formed the new, bi-partisan Upstate New York Caucus which was promptly joined by all the members of Congress representing Upstate. The purpose of the Caucus is to address issues facing Upstate New York and collectively work to revive the regional economy and create good-paying jobs.

The members of the bi-partisan Upstate New York Caucus include Rep. Michael Arcuri, Rep. John Hall, Rep. Brian Higgins, Rep. Maurice Hinchey, Rep. Chris Lee, Rep. John McHugh, Rep. Daniel Maffei, Rep. Eric Massa, Rep. Louise Slaughter, and Rep. Paul Tonko.

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